



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

BURUNDI—Complex Emergency

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

September 2, 2004

Note: the last situation report was dated May 14, 2004

BACKGROUND

Since 1993, armed conflict in Burundi has claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million people. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 141,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in 182 camps inside Burundi, with sporadic attacks temporarily displacing between 25,000 to 70,000 residents each month. An estimated 777,000 Burundians live as refugees, the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania.

Approximately 14 percent of Burundi's 6.8 million people are Tutsi, while 85 percent are Hutu, and 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). Prior to the current power-sharing government, the Tutsi minority had maintained power almost continuously since national independence in 1962. The current cycle of violence began in 1993 when members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu. In August 2000, 19 Burundian political parties signed the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (APRA), agreeing to an ethnically balanced army and legislature and democratic elections. In November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, became the first leader of the transitional government, and in April 2003, Domitien Ndayizeye, a Hutu, assumed the presidency for the second half of the three year transition. In October 2003, the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) peacekeeping force began to assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of opposition forces. On June 1, 2004, the U.N. Mission in Burundi (ONUB) assumed peacekeeping duties from AMIB.

The negotiations leading to APRA did not include representatives from the two major armed groups, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) and the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (PALIPEHUTU-FNL), both opposed to the Government of Burundi (GOB). In November 2003, following a comprehensive peace agreement, the GOB formed a new government to include CNDD-FDD. The other main armed opposition group, PALIPEHUTU-FNL has since met with the GOB several times, but has yet to participate in a ceasefire. Although PALIPEHUTU-FNL continues to launch sporadic attacks, most recently killing 160 Congolese refugees at Gatumba transit center, most areas in Burundi have become more secure in 2004, leading to an increase in the return of IDPs to previously insecure areas and refugees from camps in Tanzania. Nearly 63,000 Burundian refugees have returned from Tanzania between January and August 2004. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that up to 150,000 Burundian refugees may return in 2004.

The APRA-mandated three-year transitional period is scheduled to end in October 2004, when direct elections at the communal and national levels are planned. However, a draft constitution has not been adopted, power-sharing among Tutsis and Hutus is still being solidified, and negotiations continue to determine the political make-up of the post-transitional period.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs	141,192	UN OCHA – April 2004
Refugees in Burundi	55,000, most from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	UNHCR – August 2004
Burundi Refugees (Estimate)	777,000, most in Tanzania	UNHCR – July 2004
Refugees Repatriated Since 2001 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees)	2001-2003: 148,000 2004 to date: 73,912 Total to date: 221,912	UNHCR – August 2004

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi (to date)\$11,220,199
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi (to date).....\$40,969,422

CURRENT SITUATION

Implementation of power-sharing accord. From July 17 to 21, negotiations between Burundi's main political parties were held in Pretoria, South Africa to discuss national elections, the drafting of a national

constitution, and post-transition power-sharing arrangements. On August 18, African leaders endorsed a power-sharing agreement that was signed in South Africa on August 6 between Burundian Hutu and Tutsi

political parties. Twenty Burundian Hutu and Tutsi political parties signed the power-sharing accord; however, 10 Tutsi movements did not sign the accord, including the leading Union for National Progress (UPRONA) which believed the agreement made too many concessions to the majority Hutu community. According to the agreement, the new government and national assembly will be 60 percent Hutu and 40 percent Tutsi, and the Senate and Army will be equally divided between the two ethnic communities. The accord also calls for a new constitution to take effect on November 1.

Status of Independent Electoral Commission. On August 31, the Burundian National Assembly endorsed five nominees for the Independent Electoral Commission. The commission members, who must be endorsed by the Senate before the President can appoint them, will be charged with technical preparations for the elections.

U.N. peacekeeping force replaces AMIB in Burundi. On June 1, ONUB replaced the AMIB. The new U.N. peacekeeping force is comprised of 5,650 troops, including 5 infantry battalions and 200 military observers, as well as 120 civilian police and up to 1,000 national and international civilian staff. The African Union (AU) will maintain an observer mission to support the peace process. The 2,612 African troops from Ethiopia, South Africa, and Mozambique, previously operating under the AMIB, now form the first contingent of the new peacekeeping force. On August 6, the first of 170 troops, out of an expected 900 Nepalese peacekeeping troops, arrived in Bujumbura to join ONUB.

Sporadic insecurity in western Burundi. Despite improved overall security in most of Burundi, USAID/OFDA field reports indicate conflict-related displacements in Bujumbura Rural Province. According to OCHA, at any given time between 25,000 to 70,000 people are displaced in the province, and 8 of the 10 communes in Bujumbura Rural have been affected by temporary displacements ranging from two days to three weeks. Apart from the displacements, the population has also faced widespread looting, destruction of property and land, sexual violence, and abuse.

Localized fighting between the PALIPEHUTU-FNL and the Burundian Armed Forces, in some cases in cooperation with the CNDD-FDD, continued throughout July and August 2004, leading to frequent short-term population displacements. Fighting was concentrated in Bujumbura Rural Province's southern Kabezi, Mutambu, and Muhuta communes, where insecurity prevails in large part due to the presence of PALIPEHUTU-FNL who have not joined the peace process. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently operating in Bujumbura Rural Province have

faced difficulties implementing their programs due to the security situation and the lack of information on vulnerable populations resulting from limited access.

Massacre of Congolese refugees in Gatumba. On August 13, more than 160 Congolese Tutsi refugees were killed at the Gatumba transit center, located midway between Bujumbura and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border town of Uvira. Gatumba is 1 of 3 transit centers sheltering approximately 20,000 Congolese refugees who fled a rebellion in the DRC's South Kivu Province in June.

The PALIPEHUTU-FNL, the only remaining armed opposition movement in Burundi claimed responsibility for the attack; however, survivors claimed the combatants also came from the DRC. Both the GOB and the Government of the DRC (GDRC) closed their borders following the massacre. However, the GOB reopened its border on August 26. The GDRC briefly reopened the border with Burundi on August 28, but closed it again the following day for security reasons.

UNHCR reached agreement with the GOB to relocate Gatumba survivors to Giharo in the southeastern province of Rutana, approximately 120 km from Bujumbura. On August 20, UNHCR and the GOB concurred on a second site, Gizosi in the province of Mwaro, east of Bujumbura, for the relocation of Congolese refugees now in transit centers along the Burundi-DRC border; however, a UNHCR spokesperson reported that site inspections found both sites unsuitable due to steep terrain and high altitude.

A meeting including representatives of the Congolese refugees, the GOB, and UNHCR will be held on September 1 to resolve the issue. A UNHCR spokesperson stated that under current conditions it may be up to three weeks before work can begin on the new sites. UNOB and the GOB are assisting with patrols of existing Congolese refugee transit sites, but until all transit sites close to the border are closed and the refugees are moved, security cannot be guaranteed.

Repatriation of Burundian refugees. As security conditions improve, Burundian refugees are gradually returning from neighboring Tanzania. Since March 2002, more than 182,000 Burundian refugees have returned from Tanzania, but approximately 777,000 Burundian refugees remain in the country. On June 23, the border crossing from Tanzania to Makamba Province in southern Burundi opened. This is the first crossing into southern Burundi and the fourth crossing point between the two countries.

If the situation in Burundi remains stable, the greatest challenge in the coming months may be to prepare for large-scale refugee returns. UNHCR projects that up to

150,000 refugees may return in 2004. To date, 73,912 have returned in 2004.

Food security. According to the *Système d'Alerte Précoce-Surveillance de la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi* (SAP-SSA) or Early Warning System for Food Security, funded by USAID/OFDA, food shortages may begin in August and last up to five months throughout the country. The SAP-SSA is comprised of U.N. agencies, international and national NGOs, international donors, and the GOB. These shortages are due to the early arrival of the dry season and the subsequent sharp drop in bean production.

In addition, in northern and eastern Burundi, the cassava mosaic virus disease (CMD) is sharply reducing the production of the staple cassava and could spread throughout the country within the next three to five years. Through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), USAID/OFDA currently supports programs to multiply varieties of cassava resistant to CMD, but according to IITA, new varieties are not being developed quickly enough to stem CMD's spread.

A national harvest and food stocks assessment undertaken by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in June indicated a substantial shortage of food, especially pulses. The food shortage was mainly due to irregular rains, food crop diseases, higher basic food prices, as well as ongoing violence and insecurity. Since the end of July, WFP's targeted food distribution is 6,800 metric tons (MT) per month, and WFP expects to distribute more than 41,000 MT by the end of 2004. WFP anticipates that between August 2004 and January 2005, Burundi will need at least 15,000 MT of cereal and 5,000 MT of pulses, as well as vegetable oil, corn soya blend (CSB), sugar, and salt.

Health. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), recent nutritional surveys indicate that in the northeastern provinces of Ngozi, Kayanza, and Bubanza, 10 percent of children aged between 6 months and 5 years are suffering from malnutrition, and chronic malnutrition in this same age group is now 61 percent.

As of July 25, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed 24 cases of meningitis in Kiremba Commune, Ngozi Province. WHO reported the first meningitis case on June 24. With support from UNICEF and WHO, the GOB's Ministry of Health started treatment of the confirmed cases and a vaccination campaign was conducted in Kiremba, Ngozi, Kirundo, Citiboke, and Bubanza. After new meningitis cases were reported on August 18 in Busiga Commune, Ngozi Province, as well as in the Gahombo and Mahanga communes of Kayanza Province, WHO decided to vaccinate all neighboring communes targeting approximately 1,353,000 residents.

According to WHO, since July 24 more than 251,000 people have been vaccinated against meningitis in the three communes of Kiremba, Marangara, and Ngozi in the northern province of Ngozi.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 1, 2003, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and insecure humanitarian situation. USAID/OFDA's FY 2004 program focuses on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, emergency health, food security, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$11.2 million in emergency relief assistance through seven NGOs and five U.N. agencies. USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) in Bujumbura continues to monitor USAID/OFDA-funded programs and assess the overall humanitarian situation.

USAID/Food for Peace (FFP) is supporting WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which targets more than 1.2 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP aims to maintain and improve the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable populations while promoting the recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. To date in FY 2004, USAID/FFP has provided an estimated 36,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$20.4 million.

In support of peace process advances, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided nearly \$7.5 million in FY 2004 to date. USAID/OTI promotes community-based reintegration through implementing partners PADCO, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS), and the local NGO African Strategic Impact (ASI). USAID/OTI's program includes community-based leadership training, vocational skills training, small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation, and media programming.

To date in FY 2004, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$1.1 million to UNHCR for assistance to refugees in Burundi. State/PRM has also contributed \$700,000 to WFP to meet the food assistance needs of Congolese refugees and returning Burundian refugees. In addition, State/PRM has provided \$8.9 million to support organizations assisting Burundian refugees in Tanzania, including UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, and NGOs. State/PRM has also contributed \$54 million to UNHCR and \$46.6 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in unearmarked funding to support 2004 Africa programs, including those in Burundi.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2004 (To Date)			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CONCERN	Nutrition, Food Security	Bujumbura Rural, Bururi	\$254,182
CRS	Non-Food Items, Food Security	Bubanza, Kirundo, Muyinga	\$1,300,000
GVC	Health	Kirundo, Muyinga	\$1,388,840
IMC	Health, Nutrition	Muyinga, Rutana, Kirundo, Muramvya	\$1,785,789
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Makamba, Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura-Mairie	\$999,843
Solidarités	Food Security, Agriculture	Gitega	\$200,000
Tearfund	Capacity Building, Water and Sanitation	Kirundo	\$539,915
UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$550,000
UNFAO	Coordination, Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,890,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Transport	Countrywide	\$1,247,630
WHO	Coordination, Health	Countrywide	\$200,000
Administrative	Administrative Support	Bujumbura, Nairobi	\$364,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$11,220,199
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	36,610 MT P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,449,223 ²
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$20,449,223
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
PADCO, WWCIS, ASI, Administrative	Community-based reintegration	Countrywide	\$7,500,000
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$7,500,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Assistance to refugees in Burundi	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
WFP	Food assistance for Congolese refugees and returning Burundian refugees	Countrywide	\$700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$1,800,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2004			\$39,169,422
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2004			\$40,969,422

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of August 31, 2004.² Estimated value of food assistance.


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